

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and
POETRY FOUNDATION
present



2012 NATIONAL FINALS

May 14–15

Sidney Harman Hall
Washington, DC



The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.



The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry* magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative partnerships, prizes, and programs.



Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation develops partnerships and programs that reinforce artists' capacity to create and present work, advance access to and participation in the arts, and promote a more sustainable arts ecology.

Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the State and Jurisdictional Arts Agencies of the United States.



The Poetry Out Loud National Finals are webcast live.



Follow the Finals on Facebook and Twitter.

Welcome to our nation's capital, and the final competition of the 2012 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest.

Some 365,000 students participated in Poetry Out Loud this year, and fifty-three have reached the National Finals—one from every state, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Great talent and hard work brought them here, and we congratulate all the state champions on their success. Of course, they could not have done it alone, so we also offer an enthusiastic round of applause for the family, friends, teachers, and state arts agency staff and partners who have inspired and supported them along the way.

Every audience member—whether with us in person or watching the webcast from home or following us on Twitter at #POLnews—will witness how a poem is transformed when taken off the page and spoken aloud. These students have explored the nuances of each poem and brought their own experiences to the interpretation and delivery. It is their task today to give the poem back to the world, to make it new. You will likely hear a few poems recited more than once—so consider what each unique perspective reveals.

Poetry has not only survived but has, in fact, thrived in our popular culture because of its magical simplicity, its allegiance to imagination and invention, and its ability to distill human emotion into a few pure lines of text. To quote Emily Dickinson, “I know nothing in the world that has as much power as a word. Sometimes I write one, and I look at it, until it begins to shine.”

Good luck to all our contestants – may your words shine wherever your journey takes you!



Rocco Landesman
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts



John Barr
President
Poetry Foundation

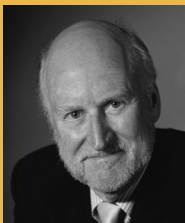


Photo by Michael Eastman



Photo courtesy of the Poetry Foundation



May 14

SEMIFINALS PROGRAM

Semifinal One

9:00 am

Semifinal Two

1:00 pm

Semifinal Three

5:00 pm



Welcome and Introductions

Garrick Davis

Stephen Young

Hosts

Stephen F. Schmidt

Josephine Reed

First Round

Second Round

Intermission

Announcement of Regional Finalists

*Top eight competitors in each semifinal
will recite a third poem*

Third Round

Awards Presentation

Announcement of National Finalists

*Top three competitors in each semifinal
will advance to National Finals*

May 15

NATIONAL FINALS PROGRAM

Welcome

Michael J. Bobbitt,
Producing Artistic Director
Adventure Theater in
Washington, DC

Roll Call of State Champions

Opening Remarks

Rocco Landesman, Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts

First Round

Remarks

John Barr, President
Poetry Foundation

Second Round

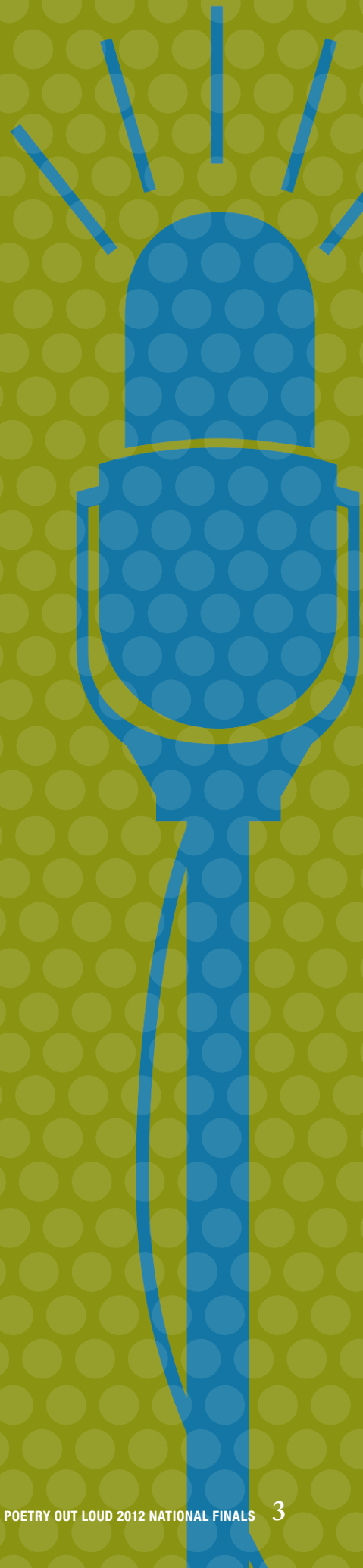
Announcement of Three Finalists

Final Round

Performance

Sax of a Kind with
Jessica Boykin-Settles

Announcement of Poetry Out Loud National Champion



Host and Judges

NATIONAL FINALS

Host

Michael J. Bobbitt is the Producing Artistic Director at Adventure Theatre in Washington, DC. He has directed, choreographed, and performed at many theaters, including Arena Stage, the Shakespeare Theatre Company, the Kennedy Center, and the Washington National Opera. As a writer, his work has been accepted in the 2006 New York International Fringe Festival, and he has received grants from the National Alliance for Musical Theatre's Producer-Writer Initiative, the Creative Projects Grant from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Puffin Foundation. He serves on the Board of Directors for Theatre for Young Audiences, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, the DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative, and the League of Washington Theatres. He lives in Glen Echo, Maryland, with his partner and young son.

Judges

Jeffrey Brown is senior correspondent and regular co-anchor of *PBS NewsHour*. In a career spanning more than twenty years with the news program, Brown has served in a variety of roles, both on and off camera. As senior correspondent, he has conducted studio

discussions and reported from the field on a wide array of domestic and international stories. As arts correspondent, he has profiled and interviewed many of the world's leading writers, musicians, and other artists. As senior producer for national affairs for more than a decade, he helped shape the program's coverage of a range of areas, including the economy, healthcare, social policy, culture, and the arts. In addition, he is the creator and host of "Art Beat," the *NewsHour's* online arts and culture blog. His work as correspondent and producer has garnered an Emmy, five Cine Golden Eagle Awards, and other honors.

Marilyn Chin is a poet and educator whose books of poetry are taught in classrooms internationally. They include: *Dwarf Bamboo* (Greenfield, 1987); *The Phoenix Gone*, *The Terrace Empty* (Milkweed, 1994); and *Rhapsody in Plain Yellow* (W.W. Norton, 2002). Chin has won numerous awards for her poetry, including honors from the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. She has received a Stegner Fellowship, the PEN/Josephine Miles Award, four Pushcart Prizes, the Paterson Prize, and a Fulbright Fellowship. Her work has been featured in a variety of anthologies, including *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry*, *The Norton Introduction to Poetry*, and *The Oxford Anthology of Modern*

American Poetry. Currently, she co-directs the MFA program at San Diego State University.

Major Jackson is the author of three collections of poetry: *Holding Company* (W.W. Norton, 2010) and *Hoops* (2006), both finalists for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature-Poetry, and *Leaving Saturn* (University of Georgia Press, 2002), winner of the 2000 Cave Canem Poetry Prize and finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award. He is a recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award and has been honored by the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and the Witter Bynner Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress. He served as a creative arts fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and as the Jack Kerouac Writer-in-Residence at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Jackson is a professor at University of Vermont and a core faculty member of the Bennington Writing Seminars. He serves as the Poetry Editor of the *Harvard Review*.

Garrison Keillor is the host and writer of *A Prairie Home Companion* and *The Writer's Almanac*, heard on public radio stations across the country. He is the editor of several poetry anthologies, among them *Good Poems* (Penguin, 2003), *Good Poems for Hard Times* (2006), and *Good Poems, American Places* (2011), as well as the author of more than a dozen books, including *Lake Wobegon Days*

(1985), *Life Among the Lutherans* (2009), and *Pilgrims: A Wobegon Romance* (2009). His children's book, *Daddy's Girl*, appeared from Hyperion in 2005. A member of the American Academy of Arts & Letters and an inductee into the National Radio Hall of Fame, he has received a Grammy Award, a National Humanities Medal, and the John Steinbeck Award, among many other laurels. A film based on *A Prairie Home Companion*, directed by Robert Altman and written by Keillor, debuted in 2006. Born in Anoka, and a graduate of the University of Minnesota, Garrison Keillor lives in St. Paul with his wife and daughter.

Alice Quinn is Executive Director of the Poetry Society of America and an adjunct professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She was poetry editor at Alfred A. Knopf, Publishers from 1976–1986 and at *The New Yorker* from 1987–2007. She is the editor of *Edgar Allan Poe & The Juke-Box: Uncollected Poems, Drafts, and Fragments*, by Elizabeth Bishop (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006). Her articles on and interviews with writers, poets, and artists have appeared in *Artforum*, the *Canadian National Post*, *The Forward*, *Poetry Ireland*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New Yorker Online*, and she is currently editing the journals and notebooks of Elizabeth Bishop.

Hosts and Judges

SEMI-FINALS

Hosts

Josephine Reed is the Media Producer for the Public Affairs department at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). She produces and hosts the NEA's weekly podcast, *Art Works*, a program that features interviews with artists and creative thinkers. Before coming to the NEA, she directed XM Satellite Radio's book and contemporary theater channel and hosted the program, *Writers on Writing*. In partnership with the NEA, she also created the series, *The Big Read on XM*. Motivated by her passion for books, she has interviewed all types of writers throughout her career, including novelists, historians, playwrights, and poets.

Stephen F. Schmidt has been a professional actor for over thirty years, and has lived and worked in New York, Los Angeles, and for the past 23 years, in the DC-Baltimore area. He is also a teaching artist through Ford's Theatre and has helped conduct a course called "Oratory in American Culture" at Central High School in Prince George's County for the last three school years. He will be performing in *1776* and *One Destiny* (a two-man show about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln) at Ford's Theatre this spring. He can also be seen in the film *J. Edgar* in which he plays a police officer at the scene of the Lindbergh kidnapping.

Judges

Michael Astrue is the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. He was sworn in on February 12, 2007 and reports directly to President Obama. Under the pen name A. M. Juster, Astrue is also a poet, critic, and translator. His book of poems, *The Secret Language of Women* (University of Evansville Press, 2002), won the 2002 Richard Wilbur Award.

Sandra Beasley is a poet and non-fiction writer. She is the author of two books of poetry: *I Was the Jukebox* (W.W. Norton, 2010) and *Theories of Falling* (New Issues, 2008). Her memoir, *Don't Kill the Birthday Girl: Tales from an Allergic Life*, was published by Crown in 2011. She serves on the Board for The Writer's Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Jennifer Chang is a poet and scholar. She is the author of *The History of Anonymity* (University of Georgia Press, 2008), which was selected for the *Virginia Quarterly Review's* Poetry Series. Chang co-chairs the advisory board of Kundiman, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support and promotion of Asian American poetry, and teaches creative writing at Bowling Green State University.

Kyle Dargan is a poet and educator. He is the author of three collections of poetry, most recently *Logorrhea Dementia* (University of Georgia Press, 2010). His debut, *The Listening* (2004), won the 2003 Cave Canem Prize. He is the founding editor of *Post No Ills* magazine and is a professor of creative writing at American University in Washington, DC.

David Dik is the National Executive Director of Young Audiences Arts for Learning, the nation's leading provider of arts in education services to children and youth. Previously, Dik served as the Managing Director of the Metropolitan Opera Guild, a board member for the Music-in-Education National Consortium, and a member of the Teaching and Learning Committee for the New York City Center for Arts Education.

Frederick Foote is a poet and physician who lives in Bethesda, Maryland. His poetry has appeared in *Commonweal*, *JAMA*, *The Progressive*, and many other journals. Currently he is the director of the Warrior Poetry program at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda.

Diana García is the author of the poetry collection *When Living Was a Labor Camp* (University of Arizona Press, 2000), which won the 2001 American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. García

co-edited the anthology *Fire and Ink: An Anthology of Social Action Writing* (2009). She is the director of the Creative Writing and Social Action Program at California State University at Monterey Bay.

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers is the author of three books of poetry. Her debut, *The Gospel of Barbecue* (Kent State University Press, 2000), won the 1999 Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Prize. She has received an award from the Rona Jaffe Foundation, and fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and the National Endowment for the Arts, among others. She teaches creative writing at the University of Oklahoma.

Craig Wallace is a classically trained actor who spent several seasons at The Shakespeare Theatre where he appeared in such productions as *Henry V* with Harry Hamlin and *Othello* featuring Patrick Stewart. He was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for his role as Belize in *Angels in America* at Signature Theatre. Most recently he portrayed Frederick Douglass in the Ford's Theatre production of *Necessary Sacrifices*.

2012 State

ALABAMA

Margaret Payne

St. Peter's Academy

ALASKA

Aryeh Lax

Steller Secondary School

ARIZONA

Joshua Furtado

Tucson High Magnet School

ARKANSAS

Mary Newberry

Harrison High School

CALIFORNIA

Corbin Schaefer Gomez

Oak Ridge High School

COLORADO

Samuel Opoku

Thornton High School

CONNECTICUT

Miranda Pepin

Choate Rosemary Hall

DELAWARE

Elizabeth Landon

Wilmington Christian School

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Gerhard Jansen

Saint Anselm's Abbey School

FLORIDA

Katie McTigue

SAIL High School

GEORGIA

J. Michael Cheeves

Whitewater High School

HAWAII

Brady Jernigan

Hale Aloha Homeschool

IDAHO

Emily Musette Hays

Moscow High School

ILLINOIS

Carolyn M. Muller

Champaign Central High School

INDIANA

Jordan Mather-Licht

Broad Ripple Magnet High School

IOWA

Gwen Morrison

Marshalltown High School

KANSAS

Cody Keener

Baldwin High School

KENTUCKY

Curtlyn Kramer

The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of
Mathematics and Science in Kentucky

LOUISIANA

Keaghan P. Kane

Homeschooled

MAINE

Tyler O'Brien

Merriconeag Waldorf School

MARYLAND

Brian Gilbert

Marriotts Ridge High School

MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie Igharosa

Randolph High School

MICHIGAN

Randi Laundré

Alba Public School

MINNESOTA

Oluwatoosin Oyeyemi Ajagbe

Woodbury High School

MISSISSIPPI

Kristen Dupard

Ridgeland High School

MISSOURI

Cameron Locke

Stockton High School

Champions

MONTANA

Austin McMullan Graef

Hellgate High School

NEBRASKA

Russell Heitmann

Thayer Central Community Schools

NEVADA

Mandy Rae Titolo

College of Southern Nevada High School

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bria Frehner

ConVal Regional High School

NEW JERSEY

Kristin Tsuo

The Lawrenceville School

NEW MEXICO

Stephanie Garcia

Clayton High School

NEW YORK

Jason Michael Ware

Eastridge High School

NORTH CAROLINA

Jessica Kariisa

Raleigh Charter High School

NORTH DAKOTA

Stephen Gasser

Minot High School Magic City Campus

OHIO

Makala Celeste White

Toledo Early College High School

OKLAHOMA

Denise L. Burns

Lawton High School

OREGON

Jillian Frakes

Cascade Christian High School

PENNSYLVANIA

Daphnee R. McMaster

Reading High School

PUERTO RICO

Lucía Zoé Martínez López

Escuela José Julián Acosta y Calbo

RHODE ISLAND

Daraja Aranda Hinds

Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the
Performing and Visual Arts

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sam Gutshall

Bishop England High School

SOUTH DAKOTA

Brian Rhoades

Lincoln High School

TENNESSEE

Anita A. Norman

Arlington High School

TEXAS

Krista Michelle Lambert

Homeschooled

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Caprishia Marie Richards

Antilles School

UTAH

MarkKaye Hassan

Logan High School

VERMONT

Claude Mumbere

Burlington High School

VIRGINIA

Ellen Marie Howerton

Thomas Jefferson High School for
Science and Technology

WASHINGTON

Langston Ward

Mead High School

WEST VIRGINIA

Bruce Chapman McCuskey

Nitro High School

WISCONSIN

Anna Alicia Wolfs

Arrowhead Union High School

WYOMING

Sara Ellingrod

Arvada-Clearmont High School

Semifinal One

May 14, 9:00 am

CONNECTICUT

Miranda Pepin

“It Couldn’t Be Done” by Edgar Albert Guest

“The Meaning of the Shovel” by Martín Espada

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DELAWARE

Elizabeth Landon

“Ah! Why, Because the Dazzling Sun” by Emily Jane Brontë

“Golden Retrievals” by Mark Doty

•

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Gerhard Jansen

“Calling Him Back from Layoff” by Bob Hicok

“On An Unsociable Family” by Elizabeth Hands

•

MAINE

Tyler O’Brien

“Snow Day” by Billy Collins

“Invictus” by William Ernest Henley

•

MARYLAND

Brian Gilbert

“Keeping Things Whole” by Mark Strand

“To a Mouse” by Robert Burns

•

MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie Igharosa

“Richard Cory” by Edwin Arlington Robinson

“The Man with the Hoe” by Edwin Markham

•

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bria Frehner

“Onions” by William Matthews

“Difference” by Stephen Vincent Benét

•

NEW JERSEY

Kristin Tsuo

“The Meaning of the Shovel” by Martín Espada

“Pastoral Dialogue” by Anne Killigrew

•

NEW YORK

Jason Michael Ware

“Black Boys Play the Classics” by Toi Derricotte

“Preludes” by T.S. Eliot

NORTH CAROLINA

Jessica Kariisa

“Ego” by Denise Duhamel

“Early Affection” by George Moses Horton



OHIO

Makala Celeste White

“The Canonization” by John Donne

“a song in the front yard” by Gwendolyn Brooks



PENNSYLVANIA

Daphnee R. McMaster

“Candles” by Carl Dennis

“Spring” by Gerard Manley Hopkins



RHODE ISLAND

Daraja Aranda Hinds

“Grief” by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

“No Moon Floods the Memory of That Night” by Etheridge Knight



SOUTH CAROLINA

Sam Gutshall

“Floating Island” by Dorothy Wordsworth

“The Charge of the Light Brigade” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson



UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

Caprisha Marie Richards

“Love Song” by Dorothy Parker

“Her Kind” by Anne Sexton



VERMONT

Claude Mumbere

“Chicago” by Carl Sandburg

“Strange Meeting” by Wilfred Owen



VIRGINIA

Ellen Marie Howerton

“Preludes” by T.S. Eliot

“Monet Refuses the Operation” by Lisel Mueller



WEST VIRGINIA

Bruce Chapman McCuskey

“Preludes” by T.S. Eliot

“The Last Laugh” by Wilfred Owen

Semifinal Two

May 14, 1:00 pm

ALABAMA

Margaret Payne

“General William Booth Enters Into Heaven” by Vachel Lindsay

“Candles” by Carl Dennis

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ARKANSAS

Mary Newberry

“Through a Glass Eye, Lightly” by Carolyn Kizer

“Dirge Without Music” by Edna St. Vincent Millay

-

FLORIDA

Katie McTigue

“After working sixty hours again for what reason” by Bob Hicok

“Shall earth no more inspire thee” by Emily Jane Brontë

-

GEORGIA

J. Michael Cheeves

“They Feed They Lion” by Philip Levine

“Lunar Baedeker” by Mina Loy

-

ILLINOIS

Carolyn M. Muller

“Infelix” by Adah Isaacs Menken

“Dirge Without Music” by Edna St. Vincent Millay

-

INDIANA

Jordan Mather-Licht

“Calling Him Back from Layoff” by Bob Hicok

“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain” by Emily Dickinson

-

IOWA

Gwen Morrison

“The Blackstone Rangers” by Gwendolyn Brooks

“Preludes” by T.S. Eliot

-

KANSAS

Cody Keener

“To Elsie” by William Carlos Williams

“The Pomegranate and the Big Crowd” by Alberto Ríos

-

KENTUCKY

Curtlyn Kramer

“The Strength of Fields” by James L. Dickey

“In the Desert” by Stephen Crane

LOUISIANA

Keaghan P. Kane

“Crossing the Bar” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

“Preludes” by T.S. Eliot

•

MICHIGAN

Randi Laundré

“A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“Eros Turannos” by Edwin Arlington Robinson

•

MISSISSIPPI

Kristen Dupard

“I’m a Fool to Love You” by Cornelius Eady

“What Work Is” by Philip Levine

•

MISSOURI

Cameron Locke

“There’s been a Death, in the Opposite House” by Emily Dickinson

“So This Is Nebraska” by Ted Kooser

•

NEBRASKA

Russell Heitmann

“Poem with One Fact” by Donald Hall

“Dover Beach” by Matthew Arnold

•

OKLAHOMA

Denise L. Burns

“Fishing on the Susquehanna in July” by Billy Collins

“It was not Death, for I stood up” by Emily Dickinson

•

PUERTO RICO

Lucía Zoé Martínez López

“[Often rebuked, yet always back returning]” by Emily Jane Brontë

“Keeping Things Whole” by Mark Strand

•

TENNESSEE

Anita A. Norman

“Solitude” by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

“Ballad of Birmingham” by Dudley Randall

•

WISCONSIN

Anna Alicia Wolfs

“The Death of Allegory” by Billy Collins

“Lions” by Sandra McPherson

Semifinal Three

May 14, 5:00 pm

ALASKA

Aryeh Lax

“First Poem for You” by Kim Addonizio

“A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky” by Lewis Carroll

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ARIZONA

Joshua Furtado

“Catch a Little Rhyme” by Eve Merriam

“Annabel Lee” by Edgar Allan Poe

•

CALIFORNIA

Corbin Schaefer Gomez

“The Pomegranate and the Big Crowd” by Alberto Ríos

“What Work Is” by Philip Levine

•

COLORADO

Samuel Opoku

“Famous” by Naomi Shihab Nye

“Calling Him Back from Layoff” by Bob Hicok

•

HAWAII

Brady Jernigan

“What Work Is” by Philip Levine

“A Satirical Elegy on the Death of a Late Famous General” by Jonathan Swift

•

IDAHO

Emily Musette Hays

“The Empty Dance Shoes” by Cornelius Eady

“The Meaning of the Shovel” by Martín Espada

•

MINNESOTA

Oluwatoosin Oyeyemi Ajagbe

“The End of Science Fiction” by Lisel Mueller

“When You Are Old” by William Butler Yeats

•

MONTANA

Austin McMullan Graef

“Silence” by Thomas Hood

“The Origin of Order” by Pattiann Rogers

•

NEVADA

Mandy Rae Titolo

“The Larger” by Joanie Mackowski

“Life in a Love” by Robert Browning

NEW MEXICO

Stephanie Garcia

“The Larger” by Joanie Mackowski

“Solitude” by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

-

NORTH DAKOTA

Stephen Gasser

“Alone” by Edgar Allan Poe

“The Bloody Sire” by Robinson Jeffers

-

OREGON

Jillian Frakes

“The Death of Allegory” by Billy Collins

“On Monsieur’s Departure” by Queen Elizabeth I

-

SOUTH DAKOTA

Brian Rhoades

“A Supermarket in California” by Allen Ginsberg

“Dulce et Decorum Est” by Wilfred Owen

-

TEXAS

Krista Michelle Lambert

“A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning” by John Donne

“To Live with a Landscape” by Constance Urdang

-

UTAH

MarKaye Hassan

“I felt a Funeral, in my Brain” by Emily Dickinson

“Ego” by Denise Duhamel

-

WASHINGTON

Langston Ward

“Dover Beach” by Matthew Arnold

“The Truly Great” by Stephen Spender

-

WYOMING

Sara Ellingrod

“What Work Is” by Philip Levine

“Chicago” by Carl Sandburg

Prizes

NATIONAL FINALS

1st place	2nd place	3rd place	4th–9th place
\$20,000 award	\$10,000 award	\$5,000 award	\$1,000 award

The schools of the top nine finalists will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry books.

The fourth-place student in each semifinal competition will receive an honorable mention award of \$1,000, with \$500 to their school library for the purchase of poetry books.

STATE FINALS

More than \$50,000 in cash and school stipends was awarded at state final competitions.

Awards will be made in the form of lump sum cash payouts, reportable to the IRS. Tax liabilities are the sole responsibility of the winners and their families.

Production

Michael Baron (director) is the Artistic Director of Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma and has directed over 70 productions at theaters across the country. Most recently at Lyric, he directed *Spring Awakening*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Ragtime*, *Oliver!*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Baron's other directing highlights include the recent production of *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre, *The Little Dog Laughed* at Signature Theatre, and *A Year with Frog and Toad* at Adventure Theatre for which he received a 2012 Helen Hayes nomination for Best Direction of a Musical. He earned his M.F.A. in Directing from Trinity Repertory and a B.A. in theater from Wake Forest University.

Brad Linde is a saxophonist, educator, and bandleader; he is also the curator of the new "Jazz at the ATLAS" series at the Atlas Performing Arts Center in Northeast Washington, DC. Linde has performed with jazz greats such as Barry Harris, Lee Konitz, Teddy Charles, Butch Warren, Ted Brown, Grachan Moncur III, Andrew Cyrille, Eddie Bert, Freddie Redd, Dan Tepfer, Gretchen Parlato, Joel Frahm, and the Chris Byars Octet. Today, Linde leads his group "Sax of a Kind" featuring five saxophones, a rhythm section, and vocalist Jessica Boykin-Settles.

Jessica Boykin-Settles began her musical studies as a voice major at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Upon graduating, she continued her musical pursuits at New School University in New York City. There she had the opportunity to study under great musicians such as Reggie Workman, Junior Mance, Buster Williams, and Sheila Jordan. Currently she is on the music faculty at Howard University, teaching jazz voice and directing the jazz choir "Whole Lotta Jazz Singers." She also teaches and mentors youth with the Washington Jazz Arts Institute under the direction of Davey Yarborough.

Sax of a Kind

Jessica Boykin-Settles, *vocals*

with

Brad Linde, *tenor saxophone, clarinet*

Sarah Hughes, *alto saxophone, flute*

Brian Settles, *tenor saxophone, soprano saxophone*

Leigh Pilzer, *baritone saxophone*

Dan Roberts, *piano*

Michael Kramer, *guitar*

Eliot Seppa, *bass*

Larry Ferguson, *drums*

ASL Interpreters

Semifinals

Round One: Jeff Williamson and Andrea Smith

Round Two: Andrea Smith and Mary Dunn

Round Three: Mary Dunn and Joe Lucas

Finals

Andrea Smith and Megan Johnson

Acknowledgments

POETRY OUT LOUD IS RUN AT THE STATE LEVEL BY

Alabama State Council on the Arts
Alaska State Council on the Arts
Arizona Commission on the Arts
Arkansas Arts Council
California Arts Council
Colorado Creative Industries
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and Humanities
Florida Division of Cultural Affairs
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Culture and the Arts
Idaho Commission on the Arts
Illinois Arts Council
Indiana Arts Commission
Iowa Arts Council
Kansas State Department of Education
Kentucky Arts Council
Louisiana Division of the Arts
Maine Arts Commission
Maryland State Arts Council
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Michigan Council for Arts and
Cultural Affairs
Minnesota State Arts Board
Mississippi Arts Commission
Missouri Council on the Arts

Montana Arts Council
Nebraska Arts Council
Nevada Arts Council
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
New Jersey State Council on the Arts
New Mexico Arts
New York State Council on the Arts
North Carolina Arts Council
North Dakota Council on the Arts
Ohio Arts Council
Oklahoma Arts Council
Oregon Arts Commission
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
South Carolina Arts Commission
South Dakota Arts Council
Tennessee Arts Commission
Texas Commission on the Arts
Utah Arts Council
Vermont Council on the Arts
Virgin Islands Council on the Arts
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Wisconsin Arts Board
Wyoming Arts Council
and many incredible partners

THE NATIONAL FINALS ARE THE RESULT OF AMAZING EFFORTS BY

Karen Newell and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Peggy Dahlquist, Michael Baron, Brad Linde and Sax of a Kind with Jessica Boykin-Settles, guest hosts and judges, and staff at the National Endowment for the Arts and Poetry Foundation.

I hear the lofty pæans
Of the masters of the shell,
Who heard the starry music
And recount the numbers well;
Olympian bards who sung
Divine Ideas below,
Which always find us young,
And always keep us so.

from "Ode to Beauty"
by Ralph Waldo Emerson

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